

England. - Admiralty. - Gen. Instructions.

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534.C.3

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Sailing and Fighting  
INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR  
His Majesty's FLEET.

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Signal by Day

Sailing and Fighting

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

His Majesty's Fleet



# SIGNALS

To be Observed,

At an Anchor, in weighing Anchor, in Sailing, and Anchoring in the Day Time.

## I N S T R. I.

**W**HEN the Admiral would have the Fleet to get in a Condition for Sailing, he will loofe his Fore-top-fail; and all the Fleet is to do the same. To prepare for failing.

### II.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Unmoor, he will loofe the Main-top-fail, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by every Flag-Ship. To Unmoor.

### III.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to weigh, he will Haul home both Top-fail-sheets, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by every Flag-ship; and then every Ship in the Fleet is to get to fail as soon as they can: If with the Leeward Tide, the Sternmost to weigh first. To Weigh.

### IV.

The Flag-ships are to keep an *English* Mile Distance, at least, one from another at Sea, either under Sail, or at an Anchor, unless the Signal be out for a Line of Battle: And the private Ships are to keep a Quarter of a Mile Distance one from another; and when they anchor in Port, or in the Sea, they are to take a reasonable Distance for their Security, as they will answer the Damage His Majesty's Ships may receive by the contrary. To keep a good distance one from another.

V. When



## V.

Weathermost  
& Headmost  
Ships to tack  
first.

When the Admiral would have the Weathermost and Headmost Ships of the Fleet to tack first, he will hoist an Union Flag at the Flag-staff on the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; and every Flag-Ship in the Fleet is to answer with the same Signal.

## VI.

Sternmost &  
Leewardmost  
Ships to tack  
first.

When the Admiral would have the Sternmost and Leewardmost Ships to tack first, he will hoist a Union Flag at the Flag-staff on the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; and every Flag Ship in the Fleet is to answer with the same Signal.

## VII.

The whole  
Fleet to tack  
together.

When the Admiral would have the whole Fleet to tack, as near as possible at one and the same Time, he will hoist an Union Flag on the Flag-staves at the Fore and Mizzen-top-mast-heads, and fire a Gun.

## VIII.

To wear, and  
bring to, on  
the other  
Tack.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet in bad Weather (that they cannot stay) wear, and bring to the other Tack, he will hoist a Pendant on the Ensign-staff, and fire a Gun; and then the Leewardmost and Sternmost Ships are to wear first, and bring to the other Tack, and lay by or go with an easy Sail, which they see most convenient, till the Admiral comes a-head; and every Flag-ship in the Fleet is to answer with the same Signal.

## IX.

To bring to  
when failing  
before the  
Wind.

When the Fleet is failing before the Wind, or with the Wind large, and the Admiral would have them bring to, with the Starboard Tacks on board, he will hoist a Red Flag at the Flag-staff on the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun: If to bring to, with the Larboard Tack, a Blue Flag at the same Place, and fire a Gun; and every Flag-ship is to answer with the same Signal.

## X.

To bear up  
when lying  
by, or failing  
before the  
Wind.

When the Fleet is lying-by, or failing by a Wind, and the Admiral would have them bear up, and sail before the Wind, he will hoist his Ensign, and fire a Gun, which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and then the Leewardmost Ships are first to bear up, to give Room for the Weathermost to wear, and sail before the Wind with an easy Sail, till the Admiral comes a-head: But if it should happen, when the Admiral has Occasion to wear, and sail before the Wind, that the Jack and Ensign be abroad, he will haul down the Jack before he fires the Gun to wear, and keep it down till all the Fleet is before the Wind.

## XI. When



# Signals by Day

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## XI.

When any discovers Land, he is to hoist his Jack and Ensign, and Upon Discovery keep it abroad till the Admiral answers him, by hoisting his; upon very of Land. Sight of which, he is to hawl down his Ensign.

## XII.

If any discovers Danger, he is to tack, or bear up from it, and put a Jack abroad from the Main-top-mast Cross-Trees downwards upon the Back-Stay, and fire two Guns; but if that Ship should strike and stick fast on that Danger, he is to make the same Signal with his Jack, and continue firing of Guns, until he sees all the Ships of the Fleet have observed him, by endeavouring to avoid the Danger.

## XIII.

~~When any one happens to see a Ship or Ships more than His Majesty's Fleet, he is to put abroad his Ensign, and there keep it till the Admiral's is out, and then to lower it as often as he sees Ships, and to stand with them, that so the Admiral may know which Way they are, and how many; but in case they be at such a Distance, that the Ensign cannot well be discovered, then he is to lay his Head towards the Ship or Ships which are so discry'd, and to brail up his low Sails; and continue hoisting and lowering his Top-sails, and making a Weft with his Top-gallant-sails, till he is perceived by the Admiral.~~ Upon Discovery of a strange Ship or Ships.

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Sig. 14 Adm

## XIV.

When the Admiral would have the Vice-Admiral, or he that commands in the Second Post of the Fleet, to send out Ships to Chase, he will hoist a Flag strip'd Red and White, on the Flag-staff at the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun.

The Vice-Admiral, or the Officer in the Second Post, to send out Ships to Chase.

## XV.

When the Admiral would have the Rear-Admiral, or he that commands in the Third Post of the Fleet, to send out Ships to Chase, he will hoist a Flag strip'd Red and White on the Flag-staff, at the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun.

The Rear-Admiral, or the Officer in the third Post to send out Ships to Chase.

## XVI.

When the Admiral would have any Ship in the Fleet to Chase to Windward, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain, and hoist a Red Flag in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun: If to chase to Leeward, a Blue Flag, and fire a Gun: which Signals are also to be made by the Flag in whose Division that Ship is; and when he would have them give over Chase, he will hoist a White Flag on his Flag-staff at the Fore-top-mast head, and fire a Gun; which signal is likewise to be made by that Flag-ship which is nearest the Ship that chases, till the Ship sees the same.

To Chase;

B

XVII. In



# Signals by Day

## XVII.

**Springing a Leak, or any other Disaster that disables your Ship from keeping Company, you are to hawl up your Courses, and fire two Guns.**

## XVIII.

**To speak with the Admiral.** Whoever desires to speak with the Admiral, must spread an *English* Ensign from the Head of his Main or Fore-top-mast, downwards on the Shrowds, lowering his Main or Fore-top-sail, and firing Guns till he is observed by the Admiral: And if any Ship perceives the same, and judges that the Admiral does not, that Ship is to make the same Signal, and make the best of his Way to acquaint the Admiral therewith, who will answer by firing one Gun.

## XIX.

**To prepare to Anchor.** When the Admiral would have the Fleet prepare to anchor, he will hoist an Ensign, strip'd Red, White, and Blue, at the Mizzen peak, and fire a Gun; then every Flag-Ship in the Fleet is to make the same Signal.

## XX.

**To Moor.** When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Moor, he will fire one Gun, and hoist his Mizzen-top-sail, with the Clew Lines hawl'd up.

## XXI.

**The Fleet to Cut or Slip.** When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Cut or Slip, he will fire two Guns, and loose both his Top-sails; and then the Leeward-most Ships are to Cut or Slip first, to give Room for the Weathermost to come to fail.

## XXII.

**A particular Ship to cut or Slip, and Chase to Windward.** When the Admiral would have any particular Ship to cut or Slip, and chase to Windward, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain of that Ship that he would have give Chase, hoist a Red Flag in the Mizzen-shrowds, and fire a Gun.

## XXIII.

**A particular Ship to cut or Slip, and Chase to Leeward.** When the Admiral would have any particular Ship to Cut or Slip, and Chase to the Leeward, he will make the Signal for speaking with that Ship he would have give Chase, hoist a Blue Flag in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun.

## XXIV.

**For examining all Strangers.** When the Fleet is at an Anchor, the two Ships that lead the Fleet are to examine all strange Ships before they suffer them to come into the Fleet, and not to permit any Stranger to come to the Admiral before he is examined, but if the Fleet lie in the open Sea at Anchor, and a strange Ship approach into the Body of it, then the Ships next to him is to examine the Stranger, and make a Report to the Admiral.

XXV. When



# Signals by Day

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XXV.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet exercise their Small-Arms, he will hoist a Red Flag on the Ensign-staff, and fire a Gun; and if the Great Guns, the same Signal, and a Pendant over the Flag.

For Exercising the Small and Great Guns.

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## Distinguishing Lights

F O R T H E

F L A G S.

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I N S T R. I.

**T**HE Admiral, who commands the Fleet, is to have three Lights on the Poop, and one on the Main-top.

II.

The Vice-Admiral, or he who has the Second Post, to have two on his Poop, and one on his Main-top.

III.

The Rear-Admiral, or he who has the Third Post, one on his Main-top, and one on his Poop.

IV.

The Vice-Admiral of each Squadron, two on his Poop.

V.

The Rear-Admiral of each Squadron, one on his Poop: But when the whole Fleet carry their Lights, then the Rear-Admiral of each Squadron is to carry two Lights, the one hoisted a Yard above the other, on the Ensign-staff.

VI.

In Case of foul Weather, and a dark Night, each Ship is to carry a Light.

S I G-



# SIGNALS

## To be Observed

At an Anchor, in weighing Anchor, in Sailing and Anchoring in the Night-Time.

*You are to observe, That the Guns which you fire for Signals in the Night, be all fired on the same Side, that they may make no Alteration in the Sound.*

## I N S T R. I.

To Unmoor,  
and ride  
short.

**W**HEN the Admiral would have the Fleet to Unmoor, and Ride short, he will hang out three Lights, one over another, in the Main-top-mast-shrouds, over the constant Light in the Main-top, and fire two Guns; which are to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and every private Ship is to hang out a Light in the Mizzen-shrouds.

### II.

To Weigh.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to weigh, he will hang a Light in the Main-top-mast-shrouds, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships in the Fleet; and every private Ship is to hang a Light in his Mizzen-shrouds.

### III.

To Tack.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Tack, he will hoist two Lights on the Ensign-staff, one over the other, above the constant Light on the Poop, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet, and every Ship in the Fleet is to hang out a Light extraordinary, which is not to be taken in till the Admiral takes his in. After the Signal is made, the Leewardmost and Sternmost are to tack as fast as they can; and the Sternmost Flag-ship, after he is about upon the other Tack, is to lead the Fleet, whom they are to follow, to avoid running through one another in the Night.

### IV. When



# Signals by Night.

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## IV.

When the Admiral is upon a Wind, or lying a-trey, and would To Wear and have the Fleet wear, and bring to on the other Tack, he will hoist bring to. up one Light at the Mizzen-peek, and fire three Guns, which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet, and every private Ship to answer with one Light at the Mizzen-peek. The Sternmost and Lee-wardmost Ships are to bear up so soon as the Signal is made, and it is to be understood, if the Fleet is laying to, they are to lay to on the other Tack, but if under Sail, to carry the same Sail by the Wind after they have Wore.

## V.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to make Sail, after lying To make sail a-trey, short, a-hull, or the Head-sails to the Mast, he will fire ten after lying a-Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship of the Fleet: trey. Then the Headmost and Weathermost Ships are to make Sail first.

## VI.

When the Fleet is sailing large or by the Wind, and the Admiral To bring to, would have them bring-to, and lie-by with their Starboard Tacks and lie by, aboard, he will put abroad four Lights in the Fore-shrouds, and fire after sailing six Guns; but if with the Larboard Tacks aboard, eight Guns; large, or be- fore the which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and every Wind. private Ship is to answer with four Lights, (it being the same that is in the fourth Article for bringing to in a Fog) and the Windermost Ships are to bring-to first.

## VII.

If the Admiral alter his Course, he will fire one Gun, (without To alter the Alteration of Lights;) which is to be answer'd by the Flag-ships of course. the Fleet.

## VIII.

When a Ship has Occasion to lie short, or by, after the Fleet has Upon a par- made Sail, he is to fire one Gun, and shew three of equal Height in ticular ship's the Mizzen-shrouds. lying by af- ter the Fleet makes Sail.

## IX.

When any one discovers Land or Danger, he who first discovers Upon Disco- it, is to shew as many Lights as he can, and fire one Gun, and tack, very of Land or Danger. or bear away from it.

## X.

In case of springing a Leak, or any other Disaster that disables Springing a your Ship from keeping Company, you are to hang one Light in the Leak. Main-shrouds and one in the Fore-shroud Shrouds at equal Height and fire Guns till relieved.

## XI.

When any discovers a Fleet, he shall fire Guns, make false Fires, Upon Disco- put a Light on the Main-top, three on the Poop, steer after them very of a Fleet. and

C



# Signals by Night.

and continue firing Guns: But if the Admiral should steer another Course, and fire one, two, or three Guns, (which is to call him off) then he is to follow the Admiral.

## XII.

For Anchor-  
ing.

When the Admiral chanceth to anchor, he will fire two Guns, a small Space of Time one from the other; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet; and every private ship is to shew two Lights.

## XIII.

To Moor.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Moor, he will put a Light on each Top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships in the Fleet; and every private Ship is to shew one Light.

## XIV.

To lower  
Yards and  
Top-masts.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to lower their Yards and Top-masts, he will hoist one Light upon his Ensign-staff, and fire one Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and every private Ship to shew one Light.

## XV.

To hoist  
Yards and  
Top-masts.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to hoist their Yards and Top-masts, he will put abroad two Lights, one under the other in the Mizzen-top-mast-throwds, and fire one Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and every private Ship to have one Light in their Mizzen-throwds.

## XVI.

Not to suffer  
any strange  
Ship to pass  
through the  
Fleet.

When any Ship shall be discovered coming into the Fleet, the Ship that is next to her shall endeavour to speak with her, and bring her to an Anchor, and not suffer her to pass through the Fleet: But in Case any one discovers a Fleet, and it blows so hard that he cannot come to give the Admiral timely Notice, he is to hang a great Number of Lights out, and to continue firing Gun after Gun, till the Admiral answers him with one.

## XVII.

The Fleet to  
cut or slip.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to Cut or Slip, he will hang out four Lights, one at each Main-yard-arm, and at each Fore-yard-arm, and fire two Guns; which are to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and every private Ship is to shew one Light.



# INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

## Sailing in a F O G.

### I N S T R. I.

**W**HEN the Admiral would have the Fleet to Weigh, he will fire ten Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet. To Weigh.

You are to observe, That the Guns which you fire for Signals in a Fog, be all fired on the same Side, that they may make no Alteration in the Sound.

### II.

If the Admiral would have the Fleet to Tack, he will fire four Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet: Then the Leewardmost and Sternmost Ships are to Tack first, and after they are about, to go with the same Sail they tacked with, and not to lie-by, expecting the Admiral to come a-head; which is to avoid the Danger of running through one another in thick Weather. To Tack.

### III.

If the Admiral think fit to bring to, and lie by with his Head-sails to the Mast, with the Starboard Tack aboard, he will fire six Guns; if with the Larboard Tack aboard, eight Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet. To bring to  
and lie by.

### IV.

When the Admiral makes Sail, after lying with his Head-sails to the Mast, he will fire ten Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship of the Fleet; and then the Headmost and Weathermost Ships are to make Sail first. To make sail  
after lying by

### V. If



## Signals in a Fog.

## V.

To continue  
the same sail.

If it grow thick and foggy Weather, the Admiral will continue sailing with the same Sail set that he had before it grew foggy, and will fire every Half an Hour a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet; and the private Ships are to answer by firing of Musquets, beating of Drums, and ringing of Bells.

## VI.

To make more  
Sail than  
when the fog  
came up.

If the Admiral is necessitated to make more or less Sail than he had when the Fog came up, he will fire every Half Hour a Gun, that the Fleet may thereby discern, whether they come up with the Admiral, or fall a-stern of him; which is to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet; and the private Ships are to answer by firing of Musquets, beating of Drums, or ringing of Bells.

## VII.

Upon Disco-  
very of Dan-  
ger.

If any one discovers Danger, which he can avoid by Tacking and standing from it, he is to make the Signal for Tacking in a Fog; but if he should chance to strike and stick fast, he is to fire Gun after Gun, till he believes His Majesty's Fleet have avoided the Danger, either by Tacking, Bearing up, or Anchoring.

## VIII.

To Anchor.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet to anchor, he will fire two Guns; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet; and lest there should be Ships so far a-stern, that they could not hear the Flag-ship's Guns when they answered, the Admiral will fire two Guns more after he has been Half an Hour at Anchor; which are to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet.

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# INSTRUCTIONS

To be Observed

By Younger CAPTAINS  
to the Elder.

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## I N S T R. I.

**T**HE Flag-ships are to pay a due Respect to the Senior Flags, and not to go to Windward of him or them, but upon necessary Occasions; and every private Ship in the Fleet is to observe the same to the Flag-ships, or their Commander in Chief.

## II.

When two Ships of the same Rank are sailing on the same Tack, or on contrary Tacks, and there is a Necessity for one of them to bear up to the other, he that can with the most Convenience bear up, is to do it; but if it be equally convenient to both of them, then the Younger Captain shall bear up for the Elder.

## III.

When two Ships of different Rank are sailing on the same Tack, or on contrary Tacks, and there is a Necessity for one of them to bear up for the other, the Ship that can with the most Convenience bear up, is to do it, but if it be equally convenient to both of them, the smaller Rank is to bear up for the greater, although the Ship of the smaller Rank be commanded by the Elder Captain.

## IV.

When a Flag passes any Ship in a Boat, that Ship is only to be mann'd, and not to cheer; and where there are Drums, they are to beat a March for an Admiral, two Ruffles for a Vice-Admiral, and one for a Rear-Admiral.

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S I G-



## SIGNALS

For calling

The Flag-Officers, and other  
Officers on board the A D-  
M I R A L.

## I N S T R. I.

• All the Cap-  
tains in the  
Fleet.

**A**S soon as the Admiral shall put abroad an Union Flag in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun, all the Captains in the Fleet are to come aboard the Admiral's Ship; if the same Signal, and a West with the Ensign, a Lieutenant of each Ship is to come on Board.

## II.

• All the Ma-  
sters of the  
ships of war.

If an Ensign be put abroad in the Main-shrouds, all the Masters of the Ships of War, belonging to the Fleet, are to come aboard the Admiral.

## III.

• The Flags  
and Land  
General Of-  
ficers.

When the Admiral hoisteth a Standard on the Flag-staff at the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fires a Gun, all the Flag-Officers in the Fleet are to come aboard him; if the *English* Flags only, then a Standard in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun; if the Flags and Land General Officers, he will put abroad a Standard at Mizzen-top-mast-head, and a Pendant at Mizzen-peak, and fire a Gun.

## IV.

• The Captains  
of the Admi-  
ral's Squa-  
dron, or  
Lieutenants.

When the Admiral hoisteth a Red Flag in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fires a Gun, all the Captains of his own Squadron are to come aboard him; if the same Signal, and a West with the Ensign, a Lieutenant of each of the Ships in the said Squadron to come on Board.

## V.

• The Vice-  
Admiral and  
the Captains  
of his Squa-  
dron.

When the Admiral hoisteth a White Flag in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fires a Gun, the Vice-Admiral, or he that commands in the Second



cond Post, and all the Captains of his Squadron, are to come aboard the Admiral, if the same Signal and a West of the Ensign, a Lieutenant of each of the Ships in the said Squadron is to come on Board.

## VI.

When the Blue Flag is hoisted in the Mizzen-shrouds, and a Gun fired, then the Rear-Admiral, or he that commands in the Third Admiral and Post of the Fleet, and all the Captains of his Squadron are to come aboard the Admiral; if the same Signal, and a West with the Ensign, a Lieutenant of each of the Ships in the said Squadron is to come on Board.

## VII.

When a Standard is hoisted on the Ensign-staff, and a Gun fired, The Vice & the Vice and Rear-Admirals of the Fleet, or those that command in the Second and Third Posts in the Fleet, are to come aboard the Admiral.

## VIII.

When the Admiral would speak with the Captains of his own Division, he will hoist a Pendant on the Mizzen-peak, and fire a Gun; if with a Lieutenant of each Ship in the same Division, the same Signal, and a West with his Ensign.

## IX.

When the Admiral would speak with the Lieutenant of any particular Ship, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain of that Ship, and make a West with his Ensign.

## X.

When the Admiral would have all the Tenders in the Fleet come under his Stern, and speak with him, he will hoist a Flag, striped Yellow and White, at the Mizzen-peak, and fire a Gun.

## XI.

When the Admiral would speak with any particular Ship's Tender, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain of the Ship he attends on, and a West with his Jack.

## XII.

When the Admiral would have all the Pinnaces and Barges in the Fleet to come on Board him mann'd and arm'd, he will hoist a Pendant on the Flag-staff, at the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; and if he would have them chase any Ship, Vessel, or Boat, in View, without repairing on Board him, he will hoist the Pendant as aforesaid, and fire two Guns.

## XIII. When



## XIII.

Long Boats  
mann'd and  
arm'd.

When the Admiral would have all the Long Boats in the Fleet come on Board him mann'd and arm'd, he will hoist a Pendant on the Flag-staff at the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; and if he would have them chase any Ship, Vessel, or Boat, in View, he will hoist the Pendant as aforesaid, and fire two Guns.

## XIV.

All Boats in  
the Fleet  
mann'd and  
arm'd.

When the Admiral would have all the Boats in the Fleet come on Board him mann'd and arm'd, he will hoist a Pendant on the Flag-staff, at the Fore-top-mast-head, and another on the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire one Gun; and if he would have them chase, he will hoist the Pendants as aforesaid, and fire two Guns.

## XV.

Every Capt.  
tain to give  
his Tender  
the Admi-  
ral's Signals,

Every Captain in the Fleet that has a Tender, is required to give the Master of her his General and Particular Signals from the Admiral.

## XVI.

Before send-  
ing an Hos-  
pital ship out  
of the Fleet.

Before the Admiral sends any Hospital Ship out of the Fleet with Sick Men, that Ship shall make a Signal by spreading an Ensign on the Main-top-mast-back-stay, from the Head of the Mast downwards.

## XVII.

Victualler or  
his Agent.

When the Admiral would speak with the Victualler, or his Agent, he will put an *English* Ensign in the Mizzen-top-mast-throwds.

## XVIII.

Officer of the  
Ordnance.

When the Admiral would speak with the Officer that has Charge of the Gunners-Stores, he will spread an Ensign at his Main-top-fail-yard-arm.

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# INSTRUCTIONS

To be observed by all

*Masters, Pilots, Ketches, Hoys,  
and Smacks,*

Attending the

# FLEET.

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## I N S T R. I.

**I**N Case of Sailing at any Time, (save only in Time of Fight) you are Night and Day to keep your respective Stations; and if you meet with any less Depth than seven Fathom in the Day-time, you are to fire one Gun, and hawl up your Main-sail; and if you meet with less than seven Fathom in the Night, to fire one Gun, and make false Fires till you are answered from the Admiral with false Fires again.

## II.

You are to observe Signals one from another, in your several Stations, and to make the same Signals to the Fleet, if at any Time in Sailing you meet with Shoal-Water.

## III.

In sailing, (Night and Day) you are to keep your Lead continually going, and be careful of your Tides and Reckonings, that so you may be able to give an Account whereabouts the Fleet is at any Time; but your Care is more particularly and immediately required, in keeping as exact an Account in Time of Fight, as you are able.

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IV. In



## IV.

In Case His Majesty's Fleet shall engage the Enemy among the Sands, or where they have Reason to apprehend Danger, then such of you as are appointed by the Admiral for that Service, shall lie away a-head of the Fleet, and keep your Lead going; and if you meet with less than seven Fathom Water, you are to lower your Main-top-sail, (if abroad) and to spread your Ensign from your Main-top-mast-head downwards, and to stand from the Danger.

And those of you who are not appointed by the Admiral as afore-said, are to use your utmost Endeavour to know the Fire-ships belonging to the Enemies; and accordingly observing their Motion, to do your utmost to cut off their Boats, (if possible) or, if Opportunity serve, to lay them on Board, seize and destroy them; and to this Purpose, you are to keep to Windward of the Squadron in Time of Service: But in Case you cannot prevent the Fire-ships from going on Board the Admiral, or any other, by clapping between them, (which by all possible Means you are to endeavour) then, and in all such Cases and Exigents, you are to shew yourselves Men, and to steer on Board them with your Boats, and with Grap-Nails, or other Means, to clear His Majesty's Ship from them, and to destroy them: Which Service, if honourably performed, shall be rewarded according to its Merit; but if neglected, shall be strictly examined, and severely punished.

Fighting



# Fighting Instructions.

## I N S T R. I.

**W**HEN the Admiral would have the Admiral of the White, Admiral of the White or he that commands in the Second Post, and his whole Squadron to tack, and endeavour to gain the Wind of the Enemy, he will spread a White Flag under the Flag at the Main-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; and when he would have the Admiral of the Blue, or he that commands in the Third Post, to do the same, he will spread a Blue Flag on that Place, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships in the Fleet.

## II.

When the Admiral would have the Vice-Admiral of the Red, and his Division, tack and endeavour to gain the Wind of the Enemy, he will spread a Red Flag from the Cap on the Fore-top-mast-head downward on the Back-stay: If he would have the Vice-Admiral of the White do the same, a White Flag: If the Vice-Admiral of the Blue, a Blue Flag, at the same Place, and fire a Gun.

## III.

When the Admiral would have the Rear-Admiral of the Red, and his Division, tack, and endeavour to gain the Wind of the Enemy, he will hoist a Red Flag at the Flag-staff at the Mizzen-top-mast-head; and if the Rear-Admiral of the White, a White Flag; if the Rear-Admiral of the Blue, a Blue Flag at the same Place, and under the Flag a Pendant of the same Colour, and fire a Gun.

## IV.

If the Admiral be to Leeward of the Fleet, or any Part of the Fleet, and he would have them bear down into his Wake or Grain, he will hoist a Blue Flag at the Mizzen-peek, and fire a Gun.

## V.

If the Admiral be to Leeward of the Enemy, and his Fleet, or any Part of them, to Leeward of him; that he may bring those Ships into a Line; he will bear up with a Blue Flag at the Mizzen-peek under the Union Flag, which is the Signal for the Line of Battle, and fire a Gun; and then those Ships to Leeward are to use their Endeavour to get into his Wake or Grain, according to their Stations in the Line of Battle.

## VI. If



# Fighting Instructions.

## VI.

- Vice, or Rear-Admirals, &c. and Ships of the Starboard and Larboard Quarter to come to their said Tacks.
- If the Fleet be sailing before the Wind, and the Admiral would have him that commands in the Second Post, and the Ships of the Starboard Quarter to clap by the Wind, and come to the Starboard Tack, then he will hoist upon the Mizzen-top-mast-head a Red Flag; and in Case he would have him that commands in the Third Post, and the Ships of the Larboard Quarter to come to their Larboard Tack, then he will hoist up a Blue Flag at the same Place, and fire a Gun.

## VII.

- Van of the Fleet to tack first
- When the Admiral would have the Van of the Fleet to Tack first, he will put abroad the Union Flag at the Flag-staff on the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun, if the Red Flag be not abroad; but if the Red Flag be abroad, then the Fore-top-fails shall be lowered a little, and the Union Flag shall be spread from the Cap of the Fore-top-mast downwards; and every Flag-ship in the Fleet is to do the same.

## VIII.

- Rear of the Fleet to tack first.
- When the Admiral would have the Rear of the Fleet tack first, he will hoist the Union Flag on the Flag-staff at the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by every Flag-ship in the Fleet.

## IX.

- Flag Ships to come into the Admiral's Wake or Grain.
- When the Admiral would have all the Flag-ships in the Fleet come into his Wake or Grain, he will hoist a Red Flag at the Mizzen-peek, and fire a Gun; and the Flag-ships in the Fleet are to make the same Signal.

## X.

- Admirals of the White or Blue, to make more Sail, though the Admiral himself shortens his.
- When the Admiral would have the Admiral of the White, or he that commands in the Second Post, and his Squadron, make more Sail, though himself shorten Sail, he will hoist a White Flag on the Ensign-staff; if the Admiral of the Blue, or he that commands in the Third Post, a Blue Flag at the same Place, and fire a Gun; and every Flag-ship in the Fleet is to make the same Signal.

## XI.

- Signals for Battle.
- As soon as the Admiral shall hoist a Red Flag on the Flag-staff at the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun, every Ship in the Fleet is to use their utmost Endeavour to engage the Enemy in the Order the Admiral has prescribed unto them.

## XII.

- Frigates that are not in the Line of Battle to come under the Admiral's Stern.
- When the Admiral hoists a White Flag at the Mizzen-peek, and fires a Gun, then all the small Frigates of his Squadron, that are not of the Line of Battle, are to come under his Stern.

## XIII. If



# Fighting Instructions.

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## XIII.

If the Fleet is sailing by a Wind in the Line of Battle, and the Rear of the Admiral would have them brace their Head-sails to the Mast, he Fleet to brace will hoist a Yellow Flag on the Flag-staff, at the Mizzen-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; which the Flag-ships in the Fleet are to answer: their Head-sails to the Mast. Then the Ships in the Rear are to brace to first.

## XIV.

The Fleet lying in a Line of Battle with their Head-sails to the Van of the Mast, and if the Admiral would have them fill, and stand on, he will Fleet to fill hoist a Yellow Flag on the Flag-staff at the Fore-top-mast-head, and their Head-sails. fire a Gun; which the Flag-ships in the Fleet are to answer; then the Ships in the Van are to fill first, and to stand on: If it happen, when this Signal is to be made, that the Red Flag is abroad on the Flag-staff at the Fore-top-mast-head, the Admiral will spread the Yellow Flag under the Red.

## XV.

If the Admiral see the Enemies Fleet standing towards him, and Instructions he has the Wind of them, the Van of the Fleet is to make Sail till to be observed in engaging the Enemy. they come the Length of the Enemies Rear, and our Rear a-breast of the Enemies Van; then he that is in the Rear of our Fleet is to tack first, and every Ship one after another, as fast as they can throughout the Line; and if the Admiral would have the whole Fleet to tack together, the sooner to put them in a Posture of engaging the Enemy, then he will hoist an Union Flag on the Flag-staves at the Fore and Mizzen-top-mast-heads, and fire a Gun; and all the Flag-ships in the Fleet are to do the same: But in Case the Enemies Fleet should tack in the Rear, our Fleet is to do the same with an equal Number of Ships; and whilst they are in Fight with the Enemy, to keep within half a Cable's Length one of another; or, if the Weather be bad, according to the Discretion of the Commanders.

## XVI.

When the Admiral would have the Ship that leads the Van of the Ship that Fleet, or the Headmost Ship in the Fleet, when they are in a Line of leads the Van Battle, hoist, lower, set or hawl up any of his Sails, the Admiral of the Fleet, will spread a Yellow Flag under that at the Main-top-mast-head, and when in a Line, to hoist, fire a Gun; which the Flag-ships, that have Flags at the Main-top-lower, set or mast-head, are to answer; and those Flag-ships that have not, are to hawl up any hoist the Yellow Flag on the Flag-staff at the Main-top-mast-head, of his Sails: and fire a Gun: Then the Admiral will hoist, lower, set or hawl up the Sail he would have the Ship that leads the Van do, which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet.

## XVII.

If the Admiral and his Fleet have the Wind of the Enemy, and How to engage the Enemy when the Fleet has the Wind of them they have stretched themselves in a Line of Battle, the Van of the Admiral's Fleet is to steer with the Van of the Enemies, and there to engage them.

F

Every them



## Fighting Instructions.

## XVIII.

Not to fire  
till within  
Point-Blank.

Every Commander is to take Care, that his Guns are not fired till he is sure he can reach the Enemy upon a Point-Blank; and by no Means to suffer his Guns to be fired over any of our own Ships.

## XIX.

Not to pursue a small  
Number of the Enemy,  
till the main  
Body is run  
or disabled.

None of the Ships in the Fleet shall pursue any small Number of the Enemies Ships, till the main Body be disabled, or Run.

## XX.

When a Ship  
is in Distress.

If any of the Ships in the Fleet are in Distress, and make the Signal, which is a Weft with the Jack or Ensign, the next Ship to them is strictly required to relieve them.

## XXI.

The Admiral, or any  
Flag-ship in  
Distress.

If the Admiral, or any Flag-ship, should be in Distress, and make the usual Signal, the Ships in the Fleet are to endeavour to get as close up into a Line, between him and the Enemy, as they can, having always an Eye to defend him, if the Enemy should come to annoy in that Condition.

## XXII.

No Ship to go out of the  
Line without  
Leave, and the  
next Ships to  
close up the  
Line.

No Ship in the Fleet shall leave his Station, upon any Pretence whatsoever, till he has acquainted his Flag, or the next Flag-Officer to him, with the Condition of his Ship, and received his Direction herein; but in Case any Ship shall so do, the next Ships are to close up the Line: And if any Commander shall be wanting in doing his Duty, his Flag, or the next Flag-Officer to him, is immediately to send for the said Commander from his Ship, and appoint another in his Room.

## XXIII.

When a Flag  
Ship is disabled.

If any Flag-ship be disabled, the Flag may go on Board any Ship of his own Squadron or Division.

## XXIV.

The whole  
Fleet to chase

If the Enemy be put to the Run, and the Admiral thinks it convenient the whole Fleet shall follow them, he will make all the Sail he can himself after the Enemy, and take down the Signal for the Line of Battle, and fire two Guns out of his Fore-chase; and all the Flag-ships are to do the same: Then every Ship in the Fleet is to use his best Endeavour to come up with the Enemy, and lay them on Board.

## XXV.

Any particular  
Flag-ship with his  
Squadron, or  
Division, to  
chase.

If the Admiral would have any particular Flag-ship, and his Squadron, or Division, give chase to the Enemy, he will make the same Signal that is appointed for that Flag-ship's Tacking with his Squadron or Division, and Weathering the Enemy.

XXVI. When



# Fighting Instructions.

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## XXVI.

When the Admiral would have them give over Chase, he will hoist a White Flag at the Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun. To give over Chase.

## XXVII.

If the Admiral would have any Flag in his Division or Squadron Cut or Slip in the Day-time, he will make the same Signals that are appointed for those Flag-ships, and their Division or Squadron, to Tack and Weather the Enemy, as is expressed in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Articles before-going. Any Flag to Cut or Slip in the Day.

## XXVIII.

When the Admiral would have the Red Squadron draw into a Line of Battle, a-breast of one another, he will put abroad a Flag striped Red and White on the Flag-staff at the Main-top-mast-head, with a Pendant under it, and fire a Gun. If he would have the White Squadron, or those that have the Second Post in the Fleet to do the like, the Signal shall be a Flag striped Red, White, and Blue, with a Pendant under it, at the aforesaid Place. And if he would have the Blue Squadron do the like, he will put on the said Place a *Genoese* Ensign, together with the Pendant: But when he would have either of the said Squadrons to draw into a Line of Battle, a-head of one another, he will make the aforesaid Signals without a Pendant; which Signals are to be answer'd by the Flag-ships only of the said Squadrons, and be kept out till the Admiral takes in his. And if the Admiral would have any Vice-Admiral of the Fleet, and his Division, draw into a Line of Battle, as aforesaid, he will make the same Signals at the Fore-top-mast-head that he makes for that Squadron at the Main-top-mast-head; and for any Rear-Admiral in the Fleet, and his Division, the same Signals at the Mizzen-top-mast-head; which Signals are to be answer'd by the Vice or Rear-Admiral to whom the Signal is made. Red, White, or Blue Squadron to draw into a Line of Battle a-breast or a-head of one another, or any Vice, or Rear-Admiral to do the like.

## XXIX.

When the Admiral would have the Fleet draw into a Line of Battle, one a-stern of the other, with a large Wind, and if he would have those lead who are to lead with their Starboard Tacks aboard by a Wind, he will hoist a Red and White Flag at the Mizzen-peak, and fire a Gun, and if he would have those lead who are to lead with their Larboard Tacks aboard by a Wind, he will hoist a *Genoese* Flag at the same Place, and fire a Gun; which is to be answered by the Flag-ships of the Fleet. Fleet to draw into a Line of Battle one a-stern of another.

## XXX.

When the Fleet is in the Line of Battle, the Signals that are made by the Admiral, for any Squadron, or particular Division, are to be repeated by all the Flags that are between the Admiral and that Squadron, or Division, to whom the Signal is made. Signals made by the Admiral to be repeated by the Flags.

ENCOURAGE



## ENCOURAGEMENT

FOR THE

Captains and Companies

OF

*Fire-Ships, Small Frigates, and Ketches.*

**A**LTHOUGH it is the Duty of all Persons employed in His Majesty's Fleet, even to the utmost Hazard of their Lives, to endeavour, as well the Destroying of His Majesty's Enemies, as the Succouring of His Majesty's Subjects, and in most especial Manner to preserve and defend His Majesty's Ships of War; (the Neglect whereof shall at all Times be strictly enquired after, and severely punish'd;) Nevertheless, that no Inducement may be wanting, which may oblige all Persons, serving in His Majesty's Fleet, Valiantly and Honourably to acquit themselves in their several Stations; I have therefore thought fit to publish and declare, and do hereby promise on His Majesty's Behalf,

1. That if any of His Majesty's Fireships perform the Service expected from them, in such Manner that any of the Enemies Men of War, of Forty Guns or more, shall be burnt by them, every Person remaining in the Fire-ship till the Service be performed, shall receive on board the Admiral, immediately after the Service done, Ten Pounds, as a Reward of that Service, over and above his Pay due to him; and in Case any of them shall be killed in that Service, it shall be paid to his Executors or next Relations: And the Captains of such Fire-ships shall receive 100*l.* or a Medal of Gold with a Chain of the same Value, as he shall make Choice of, to remain as a Token of Honour to him and his Posterity; and shall receive such other Encouragement, by Preferment and Command, or otherwise, as shall be fit to reward him, and induce others to perform the like Service; and the Inferior Officers shall receive each of them Ten Pounds in Money; and be taken Care of, and placed in other Ships, before any other Person whatsoever.



## Fire-Ships, &c.

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2. In Case any of the Enemies Flag-ships be so fired, the Recompence shall be double to each Man performing it; and the Medal to the Commander shall be such, as shall particularly express the Eminency of the Service; and his and the other Officers Preferment shall be suitable to the Merit thereof.

3. If any of His Majesty's Fifth or Sixth Rate Frigates, or any Ketches, Smacks, Hoys, or Boats, in His Majesty's Service, shall Board or Destroy any Fire-ships of the Enemies, and so prevent any of them from going on Board any of the King's Ships, above the Fifth Rate; besides the Preferment that shall be given to the Commanders and Officers of such Ships, performing such Service, answerable to their Merit; the Company of such of the said Ships or Vessels, (or in Case they shall be kill'd in that Service, their Executors, or nearest Relations) shall receive every Man Forty Shillings as a Reward: And such Person who shall, by the Testimony of the Commanders, appear to be eminently instrumental in such Service, shall receive a further Reward, according to his Merit.

4. If the Masters of any Ketches, Hoys, and Smacks, or other Vessels hired for His Majesty's Service, shall endeavour to perform any of the Services aforesaid, and shall by such his Attempt lose his Vessel or Ship, the full Value thereof shall be paid by the Treasurer of his Majesty's Navy, upon Certificate of the Service from the Commander in Chief; and the Commander of the said Ship, and the Men serving in her, shall receive the same Recompence with those who serve in His Majesty's Ships or Vessels.

5. That if any Boats belonging to the Fleet shall, in Time of Action, prevent any of the Enemies Fire-ships from doing Injury to His Majesty's Ships, the Crews belonging to the said Boats shall receive Encouragement for their said Service, according as it shall be represented by the Captain of the Ship which they may happen so to preserve.

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# INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

## FIRE-SHIPS.

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### I N S T R. I.

**W**HEN the Admiral would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Admiral's Division of the Blue Squadron, he will put a Flag striped Yellow and White from Corner to Corner on the Cross Jack-Yard.

When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Vice-Admiral's Division of the Blue Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Mizzen-shrouds.

When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Rear-Admiral's Division of the Blue Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Mizzen-top-sail-yard.

When he would speak with all the Fire-ships belonging to the Blue Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Mizzen-top-mast-head downwards on the Back-stays.

### II.

When the Admiral would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to his own Division in the Red Squadron, he will put a Flag striped Yellow and White from Corner to Corner on the Main-yard.

When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Vice-Admiral's Division of the Red Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Main-shrouds.

When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Rear-Admiral's Division of the Red Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Main-top-mast-yard.

When he would speak with all the Fire-ships belonging to the Red Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Main-top-mast-head downwards on the Back-stays.

### III.

When the Admiral would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Admiral's Division of the White Squadron, he will put a Flag, striped Yellow and White, from Corner to Corner on the Fore-yard.

When



When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Vice-Admiral's Division of the White Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Fore-throwds.

When he would speak with the Fire-ships belonging to the Rear-Admiral's Division of the White Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Fore-top-sail-yard.

When he would speak with all the Fire-ships belonging to the White Squadron, he will put the same Flag on the Fore-top-mast-head downwards on the Back-stays.

## IV.

When the Admiral would speak with all the Fire-ships of the Fleet, he will strike his Ensign, and put the strip'd Flag in its Place.

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# ADDITIONAL SIGNALS

To be added to the XVI<sup>th</sup> Article

OF THE

Sailing Instructions

BY

# D A Y,

And observed as the other Signals.

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**W**HEN the Admiral would have any Ship chase from the To Chase North to the East from him, he will make the Signal for from North speaking with the Captain, and hoist a Flag with a White Cross and to East. a Red Field in the Mizzen-throwds, and fire a Gun; which Signal, if not immediately seen, is to be made by the Flag in whose Division that Ship is, or by the Flag nearest the Ship whose Signal is made.

When



## Additional Signals, &amp;c.

To Chase  
from East  
to South.

2  
When the Admiral would have any Ship chase from the East to the South from him, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain, and hoist a Flag with a Red Cross and a Blue Field in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun; which Signal, if not immediately seen, is to be made by the Flag in whose Division the Ship is, or by the Flag nearest the Ship whose Signal is made.

To Chase  
from South  
to West.

3  
When the Admiral would have any Ship chase from the South to the West from him, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain, and hoist a Flag strip'd Red, White, and Blue, in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun; which Signal, if not immediately seen, is to be made by the Flag in whose Division the Ship is, or by the Flag nearest the Ship whose Signal is made.

To Chase  
from West  
to North.

4  
When the Admiral would have any Ship chase from the West to the North from him, he will make the Signal for speaking with the Captain, and hoist a Flag Blue and White in the Mizzen-shrouds, and fire a Gun; which Signal, if not immediately seen, is to be made by the Flag in whose Division the Ship is, or by the Flag nearest the Ship whose Signal is made.

Ships on any  
Quarter of  
the Compass  
to come into  
the Fleet.

5  
And when the Admiral would have the Ships on any Quarter of the Compass come into the Fleet, he will hoist the Signal Flag for chasing on that Quarter of the Compass on the Flag-staff, at Fore-top-mast-head, and fire a Gun; which Signal is likewise to be made by the Flag that is nearest the Ship or Ships that the Signal is made for.

to the Respective

Captains & Commanders

of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels

on the North America Station.

Given on board the *Crown*  
of New York August 25. 1779

W. Arbuthnot

By Command of the Admiral  
W. Green





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